

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 19 are now in this case.

It is noted with appreciation that claims 5 and 6 are indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The present amendment rewrites claims 5 and 8 as independent claims covering the subject matter of Claims 5 and 6. Claim 17 depends from Claim 5 and claims 9, 10, 11, 16, and 18 depend from Claim 8. Accordingly, claims 5, 8 to 11, and 16 to 18 are indicated to be allowable.

Claims 1 to 4 and 7 to 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by Pozzo, U.S. Patent 2,552,988.

Reconsideration of the claims as amended and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The present invention provides a fragrance dispenser in which the cartridge is adjustable for varying the emission of fragrance, but wherein the cartridge is easier to mount than in prior art structures. As a result of the invention, the means for retaining the cartridge in the mounted condition do not need to provide for selective axial retaining and rotational guidance of the cartridge in accordance with the angular position of the cartridge, so that simple means are sufficient for retaining the cartridge mounted to the housing portion and the mounting operation can be simplified. (See the specification at Page 3, lines 25-34 and Page 4, lines 1-5). These and other advantages are achieved according to the invention by the provision of a fragrance dispenser comprising:

a housing portion through which an air discharge passage interconnecting an upstream side of said housing portion and a downstream side of said housing portion extends; and

a cartridge carrying a fragrant substance and having vents for allowing air to pass for entraining fragrance from said cartridge;

wherein the cartridge is removably mounted and rotatably adjustable about an axis of rotation between at least a first position and a second position, at least a portion of at least one of said vents being obstructed by said housing portion if the cartridge is in the first position and being open if the cartridge is in the second position;

and wherein the cartridge is rotatably suspended relative to the housing portion by the action of cooperating mounting structures co-axial with the axis of rotation and removable in a direction transverse to the axis of rotation (as set forth in Claim 1), or

wherein mounting structures engage the cartridge from axially opposite sides, the cartridge is resiliently, axially clamped, at least a portion of the cartridge is axially compressible, and the cartridge is removable in a direction transverse to the axis of rotation (as set forth in Claim 5), or

wherein the cartridge is axially dividable for allowing access to the inside of the cartridge, and is removable in a direction transverse to the axis of rotation (as set forth in Claim 8).

Pozzo, U.S. Patent 6,481,639, does not anticipate the claims of the invention. Patentee has as its aim the provision of a diffuser which allows diffusion to be stopped abruptly and which is easy to manufacture. This is said to be achieved by a diffuser comprising a spherical body 4 having a spherical face, a spherical reservoir constituted by a spool 20 which also includes a cartridge 32 having orifices 36 having granules of a volatile

substance absorbed thereon. A shaft 28 projects from a spherical face of the spool. The spool and cartridge constitute the reservoir. The body 2 has an attached part 2b and has a threaded cylindrical exterior face designed to be screwed into the housing main part 2a. The spool is introduced in the body via the main part 2a before this part is attached to the attached part 2b. (col. 5, lines 1-9). The spool is placed in the body 4 and the shaft reservoir containing the cartridge is mounted to move in the body between a diffusing position and a closed position in which a seal is formed between the body and the reservoir in closed position. The diffusers are designed to be held by a support, most notably an organ pipe (col. 2, lines 51 and 52). A general statement that the cartridge is removable appears at col. 2, lines 14 and 15.

There is no disclosure of a cartridge rotatably suspended relative to the housing portion by the action of cooperating mounting structures co-axial with the axis of rotation and removable in a direction transverse to the axis of rotation, or

wherein mounting structures engage the cartridge from axially opposite sides, the cartridge is resiliently, axially clamped, at least a portion of the cartridge is axially compressible, and the cartridge is removable in a direction transverse to the axis of rotation, or

wherein the cartridge is axially dividable for allowing access to the inside of the cartridge, and is removable in a direction transverse to the axis of rotation.

The reference structure is not simplified as in the instant invention, is much more complicated, and is not intended for easy and efficient use in a domestic appliance. It is clear that Pozzo is deficient as an anticipation of the present invention. It is submitted the rejection is untenable and should

be withdrawn.

In view of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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